

REAL ID and Washington State

What You Need to Know

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has denied Washington's request for a compliance extension for [REAL ID](#) requirements.

This means that standard Washington state driver licenses and ID cards may no longer be accepted as a standalone identity document at secure federal facilities.¹

This denial does NOT affect commercial airline travel at this point.²

[Enhanced Driver Licenses and Enhanced ID Cards](#) will continue to be federally acceptable documents.

This change will NOT have a significant impact on typical Washington residents at this time. Most residents don't regularly visit the secured areas of federal facilities.

What Meets REAL ID Requirements?

Because REAL ID may be required for commercial airline travel as soon as May, 2016, Washingtonians are encouraged to obtain one of these federally compliant documents:

[U.S. Passport/Passport Card](#)

[Enhanced Driver License/ID card](#)

U.S. military ID (active duty or retired military and their dependents, and DoD civilians)

Permanent resident card

Border crossing card

Airline or airport-issued ID (if issued under a TSA-approved security plan)

Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID

DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)

HSPD-12 PIV card

Foreign government-issued passport

Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card

Transportation worker identification credential

Why Is This Happening?

Washington is among 24 states that have been operating with a REAL ID compliance extension because our regular driver licenses and ID cards do not meet all 41 different REAL ID requirements. DHS denied our state's request for another compliance extension. This means our regular driver licenses and ID cards may no longer be accepted at certain secure federal facilities.

¹ Examples of restricted federal facilities are nuclear power plants and military facilities. You will still have access to federal courts, Social Security offices, and national parks.

² At some point in the future, you will be required to use an approved second form of ID with your standard Washington driver license/ID card for boarding domestic commercial airline flights. Homeland Security has indicated that they will announce "the timing and nature" of enforcement for commercial airlines in December, 2015 and that the date will be at least four months from that time.